

REMARKS

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 19 and 20. Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on September 24, 2003, have been accepted.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning copies of the forms PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 24, 2003, and March 26, 2004.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Isoda (US 2001/0028047), ["Isoda"]. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a stimulating light cut filter that comprises "an optical element which absorbs the stimulating light, and a reflecting layer which reflects the stimulating light, wherein the reflective layer is formed on a surface of the optical element which absorbs the stimulating light." The Examiner contends that stimulating light cut filter 17 of Isoda corresponds to the claimed optical element and that dichroic mirror 14 corresponds to the claimed reflective layer. Office Action at page 2.

Applicant submits that Isoda clearly shows that dichroic mirror 14 is not formed on a surface of cut filter 17 (see Fig. 2). In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Isoda that the dichroic mirror may be formed on a surface of the cut filter. Accordingly, Isoda does not disclose or suggest that “the reflective layer is formed on a surface of the optical element which absorbs the stimulating light” as set forth in claim 1.

Because independent claim 10 recites features similar to those given above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 10 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 2 recites a stimulating cut filter that comprises at least one optical element that absorbs stimulating light and at least one reflecting layer, “wherein at least one of the reflecting layer(s) is disposed in an optical path of the stimulated emission along which the stimulated emission propagates behind a face of the optical element upon which the stimulated emission impinges first in the optical element(s) of the stimulating light cut filter.” The Examiner contends this feature is disclosed by Isoda because Fig. 2 shows that dichroic mirror 14 is disposed behind element M. Office Action at page 2.

As best understood, Applicant believes that Examiner meant to cite element 15, which is a lens array, not M, which is merely the path of the light from sheet 50.

Isoda discloses that lens array 15 images light emitted from sheet 50 onto the dichroic mirror 14 in a natural size (paragraph 0067). There is no disclosure or suggestion that lens array 15 absorbs stimulating light as set forth in claim 2. At most, Isoda discloses that stimulating light cut filter 17 cuts stimulating light L (paragraph 0066). However, Fig. 2 clearly shows that

dichroic mirror 14 is disposed in front of cut filter 17 with respect to the path of the stimulated emissions.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Isoda does not disclose or suggest the claimed reflecting layer, which is disposed behind a face of an optical element that absorbs the stimulating light, as set forth in claim 2.

Because claim 11 recites features similar to those given above for claim 2, Applicant submits that claim 11 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 2.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 5-9 and 14-18. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, 12 and 13 and for indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have rewritten claim 3, 4, 12 and 13 in independent form at this time. Please note that Applicant has modified claims 3-5 and 12-14 to recite “detecting circuit” rather than “detecting means.”

III. New Claims

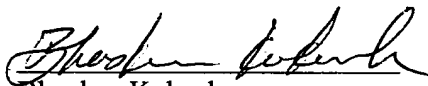
With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 19 and 20. Applicant submits that claims 19 and 20 are patentable at least by virtue of the recitation “wherein the reflective layer is disposed behind the optical element with respect to a propagation path of the stimulated emission.”

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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